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Situational Report
Commercial Truck Driver Protest Operational Impacts
February 2, 2022

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in-place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- On February 2, 2022 as of 07:00hrs MT, the highway north of the port of Coutts remains blocked and the gates at the port remain closed to traffic.
- Blockade points have moved several times. Each time the RCMP set up a check point, the protesters have repositioned it. Due to new blockade locations, (further up Hwy #4 and elsewhere), new routes to and from the port of Coutts, have been identified for staff to travel safely and avoid chokepoints (see Detour Map below).
- The POE has no changes to report. All evening shift employees arrived at the POE and day shift employees returned home safely yesterday.
- Tensions continued to escalate at the blockade and media reports from 10:12hrs yesterday indicate that things turned violent after some protesters breached police barriers and some RCMP officers were reportedly attacked.
- The Prairie Region has been advised by the RCMP that due to the lack of availability of Canadian-based towing operators (due to intimidation and 'doxxing' of towing operators by protestors on social media), that a request to grant the entry of US-based towing operators and exempt the drivers from the work permit requirement (emergency services) is expected to be received early today.
- An extreme cold weather warning is in effect for all of Southern Alberta with extreme cold wind chill values between minus 40 and minus 45.
- CBP have advised that there are approx. 50 Canada-bound trucks holding in the US waiting to come to the border once the blockade is lifted. The drivers have access to fuel and other necessities as most are in near truck stops or fuelling stations. US CBP and local law enforcement have been providing information to travellers and truckers concerning alternative POEs that remain open for service.
- In downtown Ottawa, trucks will remain on Wellington Street for yet another day as a core group of "Freedom Convoy" demonstrators keep parts of the city shut down. There remains around 250 protestors on and around Parliament Hill police said.

- All regional operations were advised of the RCMP enforcement action that was initiated at the Coutts, AB, POE last evening and advised to be on the lookout for sympathetic protest activity in the vicinity of CBSA POEs nationally.
- Remaining protest activity nationally is not impacting POE operations.

US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2			2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Total	13	26	21	3	2	

Atlantic Region

- February 2, 2022 – It has been reported that on February 4, 2022 at 1300hrs local time, the Mariners for Freedom is encouraging the blocking of cargo ships in Halifax, possibly Sault Ste. Marie and up to Ottawa for an hour. There have been requests for participation on the West Coast and worldwide. However, the St. Lawrence seaway locks are closed at this time, which limits movement into the Great Lakes.

Quebec Region

No updates to report

Northern Ontario Region

No updates to report

Southern Ontario Region

Ambassador Bridge:

No updates to report

Windsor-Detroit Tunnel:

No updates to report

Prairie Region

Regional management is confirming this morning, the last report from United States Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) on January 31, 2022, noted a lengthy line-up of vehicles waiting on the highway south of the port (on the US side), to come to Canada. It was reported that the line-up is at least a mile long and service roads and surrounding communities have been filled with waiting vehicles.

Volumes:

	This Week				Last Week			
# Passages (Persons)	2022-01-29	2022-01-30	2022-01-31	2022-02-01	2022-01-22	2022-01-23	2022-01-24	2022-01-25
Coutts Travellers	202	22	20	11	234	253	188	251
Coutts Commercial*	262	23	0	0	397	372	361	349
Del Bonita*	0	0	186	225	0	0	43	8
Carway*	35	211	127	132	47	78	29	21
Aden*	3	32	11	17	1	0	0	1
***Designated Commercial POE**								

POEs adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE, have processed a significantly higher volume of clients who have detoured from Coutts, AB.

The CBSA will be temporarily expanding hours of service at two POEs in Alberta due to the ongoing protest and blockade in the immediate vicinity of the CBSA POE at Coutts, Alberta. This short-term measure will allow the CBSA to alleviate impacts to travellers that are unable to access CBSA services at the Coutts, Alberta POE, while the protest activity is underway. US CBP have been consulted and have agreed to extend their hours of service to match CBSA's temporary extension effective today.

The two land POEs are located adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE and are designated under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) regulations to provide immigration services.

1. Carway, Alberta – currently scheduled from 08:00 to 18:00 hours MT, temporary expansion to 08:00 to 22:00 hours MT;
2. Del Bonita, Alberta – currently scheduled from 09:00 to 17:00 hours MT, temporary expansion to 24/7 service.

Traders and commercial carriers will continue to be advised that three adjacent commercial ports of entry remain available at Regway SK, North Portal, SK and Rooseville, BC.

The CBSA will closely monitor volumes and will assess the continued requirement for revised hours of operation at the two POEs. The CBSA will return to the previous hours of operation at these sites when rerouted traffic destined to Coutts, AB has subsided.

Coutts:

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- An extreme cold weather warning is in effect for all of Southern Alberta with extreme cold wind chill values between minus 40 and minus 45.
- On February 2, 2022 as of 07:00hrs MT, the highway north of the port of Coutts remains blocked and the gates at the port remain closed to traffic.
- Blockade points have moved several times. Each time the RCMP set up a check point, the protesters have repositioned it. Due to new blockade locations, (further up Hwy #4 and elsewhere), new routes to and from the POE of Coutts, AB, have been identified for staff to travel safely and avoid chokepoints (see Detour Map below).
- Request from RCMP for CBSA to assess entry of US Tow Companies to help clear the blockades due to the inability or unwillingness of Canadian tow companies to assist. AB Tow Association has reached out to the RCMP and they will be meeting today. RCMP provided a briefing document to CBSA of their efforts to secure tow truck companies for enforcement action operation (Tow and Cane Companies contacted). CBSA has confirmed entry requirements and will support entry of fully vaccinated US Tow Companies
- RCMP's position at this time is to minimize intrusions and maintain their position.
- The Prairie Region has been advised by the RCMP that due to the lack of availability of Canadian-based towing operators, (due to intimidation and 'doxxing' of towing operators by protestors on social media), that a request to grant the entry of US-based towing operators and exempt the drivers from the work permit requirement (emergency services) is expected to be received early today.
- The initial focus of the mission was to re-open the highway and border, and this has now shifted to gathering evidence to lay charges, which may result in delays to the resolution of the overall issue.
- February 2, 2022 - As of 00:37hrs ET, the POE has no changes to report. All evening shift employees arrived at the POE and day shift employees returned home safely. The afternoon shift employees will be heading home shortly.
- February 1, 2022 - As of 10:12hrs, ET, tensions continued to escalate at the blockade and media reports that the situation turned violent after some protesters breached police barriers and some RCMP officers were reportedly attacked.

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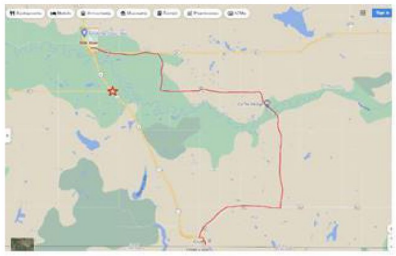

Carway

No updates to report

Emerson

- February 2, 2022 – At 07:36hrs CT, the Convoy has started up again. The convoy consists of approximately 10 pickup trucks. They are currently approximately 7 km's. They are currently obstructing both sides of the highway. Operations are impacted as all day staff officers are stuck behind the convoy.

North Portal

No updates to report

Pacific Region

- There has been some trucker chatter suggesting that some of the blockade leaving Coutts is heading towards the Kingsgate, BC POE. The CBSA has been in contact with Elk Valley RCMP who have heard similar information. At present, there is a severe storm in the Crowsnest pass with at least 4 accidents. Elk Valley RCMP are dealing with that and will try and intercept any activity at the BC and AB border if possible. Regions will continue to monitor and will provide further information as received.

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Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape (Updates in red)
BLUF: February 2, 2022, - At 08:00hrs ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:
General Threats

- According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.

- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations in Ottawa. As a shift in law enforcement tactics from keeping public order to clearing demonstrators begins, this would present a threat to CBSA NHQ, with the SRS building only four blocks from Parliament Hill.
- s.38 [redacted]

POE Threats

- An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT s.38 [redacted] indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- The protest at Coutts persist and there is a new posting on Facebook, “Show Up For Coutts”, calling for a another convoy of trucks to travel from Milk River AB on February 5th to join the protestors at Coutts. Although police action began, there has been resistance by protesters leading to incidents involving breaching the police barrier, a vehicle accident and physical assault. This activity is occurring north of the POE, but continues to present an increased threat to border service officers.
- Social media monitoring identified a post entitled ‘Mariners for Freedom’ indicating a possible small vessel protest of marine ports. The organizers request supporters conglomerate in front of home ports or harbors, create a slow roll parade and live stream it. Preliminary assessment indicates minimal organization and support, however, as seen with the truck convoy/protests, last minute organization and increase in support is possible.

Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety.

Other Threats

- The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- Media is reporting that Industry warns that the blockade in Coutts threatens supply chain to the US. In particular, Canadian beef production relies on key border points, like Coutts, to move critical food supply chain elements (everything from animal feed through to the transport of cattle). The continued blockage of Coutts may quickly become a threat to various commercial, trade, labour and immigration (temporary foreign workers in the Prairies) sectors.
- Social media and news websites in the US indicate that there is an online movement, focused on Facebook pages entitled “Freedom Convoy 2022”, to organize a protest convoy of US truckers which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. There are two proposed routes for these convoys, Dallas to D.C and Tampa to D.C.. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

Internal Taskforce

No updates to report

Communications

- February 2, 2022 – As of 11:14hrs ET, CBSA Communicates reports that media articles in this morning's clippings have shifted from mainly covering the trucker issue, however articles most major outlets are reporting on the ongoing situation in Coutts where some vehicles have left, while others have rushed in as the RCMP attempt to break up the blockade.

Other Governmental Departments

- February 2, 2022 – As of 09:51hrs ET, there is currently little to no people currently on Parliament Hill, minimal people on Wellington and surrounding streets in front of Parliament Hill. Reports have been received of a potential counter protest with additional convoys coming to Ottawa over the weekend. The current status of the interprovincial bridges are as follows:

  Macdonald-Cartier Bridge is open
  Alexandra Bridge is closed
  Portage Bridge is closed southbound (accessible from Bay only for northbound traffic)
  Chaudière Bridge is open
  Champlain Bridge is open

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